

goes up. It means that these people can better provide for their families, better save for their children's education, and better save for their own retirement.

The Constitution speaks of providing the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, and reducing death taxes means the family farms can stay in the family, the family business can remain in the hands of those who helped build it.

I urge my colleagues to support the tax relief bill when it comes before the House.

MEDICARE CUTS FINANCE TAX RELIEF FOR THE WEALTHY

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats would tax the very air we breathe, or so the Republicans would have us believe. But the Republicans would actually take oxygen from the lungs of senior citizens and disabled around this country to finance tax cuts for the wealthy. And I am not making this up.

The measure before us today cuts the payments for oxygen and oxygen equipment by 20 percent and freezes payments through 2002 to save \$1.6 billion. Eighty percent of the cuts in the bill before us today come from Medicare, not to reform Medicare and stabilize its finances, but to finance tomorrow's bill, the bill that will extend tax cuts to the wealthy, tax cuts that will average \$27,132 a year for families that earn over \$400,000. And for those families who earn \$25,000 they will average zero, nothing.

Is this fair? I do not think so.

TAX RELIEF FOR WORKING AMERICANS

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, well, there they go again. It is tragic, in a sense, to come to the floor of this House and hear such extreme, shrill and, yes, I am saddened to say, false rhetoric from liberals who constantly apologize for expansion of government and higher taxes for the American people.

The sad fact is that the Treasury Department and other partisans, such as my good friend from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO], are using books that have been cooked so much they are charcoal broiled. How many families do my colleagues know who pay rent to themselves, owning their own homes?

That is what our friends say the American people do. That is why our friends would say that a middle-income family earning about \$40,000 a year somehow makes in excess of \$75,000 a year and somehow is wealthy. It does not add up. Indeed, when we come to saving Medicare, we worked out com-

monsense reforms with the very administration that I think my colleague from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO] would champion.

So let us return to a voice of reason, common sense, giving tax relief to working Americans. That is the key. That is what our plan does, 76 percent to families making between \$20,000 and \$75,000; and that is why the American people will prevail.

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TRAGIC EXAMPLE OF WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I come before Members today to tell them about the drastic effects of the welfare reform law passed by the 104th Congress. Specifically, I want to share with Members an example of someone who has been tragically affected by the welfare reform law.

Mr. Rosendo Tijerina is a legal immigrant who has worked in Texas for 11 years. Last November he was involved in a serious auto accident. His legs and pelvis were crushed and his heart was injured as well. He is now totally disabled.

Yet under the welfare reform law, Mr. Tijerina is not eligible for supplemental security income. He has worked hard, paid his taxes, integrated himself and his family into his community and has been a contributor to our country's economy. He deserves better treatment than this.

Mr. Tijerina and the other 125,000 legal immigrants who will be denied benefits under the law need to have these benefits restored. In my own State of Texas more than 34,000 legal immigrants are expected to be denied benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that these people be given some consideration.

INTRODUCTION OF TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHERS ACT

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to address the challenges of technology in our Nation's classrooms, I am joining with the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. VENTO] in introducing the Technology for Teachers Act. This bill would establish two competitive grant programs under the auspices of the Department of Education. One program would promote the inclusion of education technology in the initial undergraduate preparation of new teachers. The other would promote education technology as part of the ongoing professional development of current teachers. The Office of Technology Assessment recently released a study

that shows that most new teachers graduate from teacher preparation institutions with limited knowledge of the way technology can be used in their professional practice. The study also revealed that a majority of classroom teachers feel they need additional training in order to adequately use a personal computer. Yet a review of the data on teacher training and technology reveals that school districts across the country spend very little of their technology budgets on teacher training.

Mr. Speaker, advanced technology has improved America's economic competitiveness and improved the quality of life for millions of our citizens. By the year 2000, just 3 years away, 60 percent of American jobs will require technological skills. This bill is going to enhance and give teachers the training they need to meet the classroom challenge of the future.

THE MEAN-SPIRITED WELFARE BILL

(Mr. REYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to put a human face on one of the hundreds of thousands of elderly and disabled legal immigrants who are the targets of a mean-spirited welfare bill.

Piedad Gonzalez entered the United States as a lawful permanent resident in 1986, then a healthy woman with no history of any physical or mental illness. Like countless other immigrants, she came to this country willing to work hard and contribute.

She soon found employment and had worked for 4 years before she began experiencing severe back pain. She became too disabled to continue working, having contracted arthritis.

In 1994, Ms. Gonzalez applied for SSI benefits and in November 1996 received a favorable decision. However, 1 month later, this was overturned, denying her SSI benefits due to the restrictions of the welfare bill.

Ms. Gonzalez should not be punished for coming to this country legally and working hard and playing by the rules. Instead, this bill wants to punish her and leave her with no means of support.

The gentleman from California [Mr. BECERRA] had an amendment to the spending bill which would have provided men and women like Ms. Gonzalez the means to survive. It was not made a part of the manager's amendment. I urge my colleagues to vote against the rule.

TAX CUTS IN BUDGET AGREEMENT HONOR WORK

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is painfully obvious by now how painful